

matrix on a surface of said culture vessel, and then

culturing the epithelial cells in said culture vessel.

2. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein 50% or more of the treated fibroblasts are separated from the culture vessel.

E1  
cancel

3. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the treated fibroblasts are separated from the culture vessel entirely.

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E2

5. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said fibroblasts are treated by at least one selected from the group consisting of  $\beta$  ray,  $\gamma$  ray, X-ray, electron beam and UV ray.

6. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said treating step of fibroblasts comprises repeating one treatment selected from the group consisting of freezing, drying and irradiating.

7. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said treating step of fibroblasts comprises repeating exposure to at least one selected from the group consisting of  $\beta$  ray,  $\gamma$  ray, electron beam, UV ray and X-ray.

8. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said fibroblasts are treated by a combination of at least two treatments selected from the group consisting of freezing, drying and irradiating.

E2  
correct

9. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein fibroblasts are treated by at least one selected from the group consisting of  $\beta$  ray,  $\gamma$  ray, electron beam, UV ray and X-ray.

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E3

12. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, in which said epithelial cells are epidermal cells.

13. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said epithelial cells are hepatic cells.

14. (Twice Amended) An epidermal cell sheet prepared from epithelial cells that are epidermal cells, cultured using the method according to Claim 1.

15. (Twice Amended) An epidermal cell suspension prepared from epithelial cells that are epidermal cells, cultured using the method according to Claim 1.

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E4

29. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the treated fibroblasts are separated from the culture vessel before the step of inoculating and culturing the epithelial cells in the culture vessel.

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